



**STEP** by **STEP**  
GOLF

# HARD CARD

## Terms of Competition



### 1.1 Spirit of the tour

It is the intention of SBSG to offer golf tournaments that are both competitive and enjoyable for all. SBSG understands, from time to time, discussions will be required for the purpose of determining a rules violation and a potential penalty. Players and staff members are expected to discuss and resolve these issues while demonstrating the utmost respect for all involved. Arguments and anger are to be replaced with healthy discussions intended to solve the problem. Players are asked to be both competitive and nice. Respect the golf course staff, the tournament staff, and your fellow competitors. SBSG reserves the right address inappropriate behavior, including the possibility of disqualification and suspension from current and future events.

### 1.2 Handling rules questions and violations

Please try to gain agreement within your group. If necessary, call the Rules Official (phone number will be printed on scorecard). If neither of those options are available, consider playing two balls (stroke play only) and receiving clarification later. In match play tournaments, playing two balls is never an option, but keep in mind Rule 20.1.b encourages you and your competitor to come to an agreement on how you choose to handle a violation.

### 1.3 Late to the tee

A player is late to the tee once his designated group has teed off.

- In stableford scoring tournaments, a player(s) late to the tee shall be assessed minus two (-2) points at the end of the round. Upon arrival, Player(s) may join the designated group at the tee of the next hole being played. A player(s) shall receive zero (0) points for each hole not completed.
- In stroke play tournaments, a player(s) late to the tee shall receive a triple bogey for each hole not completed, and the player(s) may join the designated group at the tee of the next hole.

### 1.4 Scoring

- Players are asked to keep a paper scorecard which serves as the official score for each player. Scorecards must be signed by the scorer and the attest and submitted to the scoring table. Once the scorecard is signed and handed to the official scorer, the scorecard is deemed final.
- The live leaderboard feature is a unique feature offered by SBSG and therefore players are asked to enter scores in the Live Tournament Portal after each hole. Consider designating one person for the group and taking turns throughout the round.

### 1.5 Modified stableford scoring

- Bogey = 1 point
- Par = 2 points
- Birdie = 4 points
- Eagle = 6 points
- Double Eagle = 8 points
- Anything better than double eagle = 10 points
- layer(s) quota will be identified by subtracting their handicap from 36

### 1.6 Determining the winners

Every attempt will be made to complete all holes. In the event of inclement weather or unforeseen suspension of play, and the event must be shortened, the SBSG Tournament Committee reserves the right to determine the event completed through "Common Holes played within a Flight". The tournament is deemed FINAL the moment the Tournament Director circles the winners on the official scoreboard.

### 1.7 Course markings

It is likely that some of the courses played will not be properly marked. Players are asked to communicate with opponents in the group to come to an agreement on where the course markings should be and proceed with that in mind. If an agreement cannot be reached, please call the Head Rules Official, whose ruling will be final.

- Out of Bounds:** Determine where the boundary line likely would be if marked correctly and gain agreement with competitors.
- Penalty Areas:** First determine if in fact the condition would be a considered a penalty area or not. Wooded areas, bushes, and other scrub areas are often NOT considered penalty areas, whereas a body of water would be an obvious penalty area.
- Fescue and unworked areas of the course** would likely, but not always, play as a penalty area.
- Look for cut lines** that separate fairway from first cut, and first cut from primary rough, and primary rough from unworked areas.
- Ground Under Repair:** Players may agree to determine an area as GUR if the area has clearly been modified, altered, or damaged as a result of construction of other work of humans.
- Drop Zones:** The most forward tee box on every hole is a designated drop zone even if unmarked. Players may take a drop anywhere on the most forward tee box.

**1.8 Range finders** are allowed if they do not measure slope.

**1.9 Rule 4-1.b is in effect:** No more than 14 clubs are allowed.

### 1.10 One ball rule not in effect.

Players are asked to maintain personal markings on their golf balls as they change balls throughout the round.

### 1.11 Rule E-5 Alternative to Stroke and Distance not in effect

This is the local rule option where a player may drop the ball in the edge of the fairway for a 2-stroke penalty.

### 1.12 Caddie policy

Caddies are allowed but not required in the Men's and Women's Championship Divisions only. The caddie is a representation and an extension of the player and must adhere to the same rules as the player, including rules for the caddie as specified by the USGA.

**1.13 Gimmes and mulligans** are not allowed.

**1.14 The ball is to be played down and must be holed** in the Men's and Women's Championship Divisions unless specified otherwise by the Starter. For all other Divisions, refer to Section 2 of this document.

### 1.15 Covid rules

- a. The ball must come to rest inside the cup to be count as holed. Balls that fall in and bounce out (due to a contraption inside the ball) are not to be counted as holed.
- b. Removal of pins: Follow the local club policy. If no policy exists, players may choose.
- c. Bunkers: If relief is allowed in bunkers for whatever reason, an explanation will be provided in the **Notice to Competitors**. Otherwise, play the ball as it lies.

## SECTION 2

### The Following Modifications Will be Made for the Men's and Women's Tournament Divisions ONLY

#### 2.1 Forgiving violations and calling violations

While Players are allowed and encouraged to be lenient and forgiving when there is no competitive advantage gained, also remember Players have an obligation to protect the field by helping your playing partners compete within the rules and taking proper penalty strokes. Finding the healthy balance will help increase the enjoyment for all. If your group cannot agree on how to proceed:

- a. Call the Head Rules Official to ask for clarification
- b. Play two balls and ask for clarification at the scoring table (stroke play only)

#### 2.2 Preferred lies

Players may lift, clean, and place in his/her own fairway and closely mown areas around the green. The ball must be replaced within one club length in the same condition. Not included in lift, clean, and place: rough, bunkers, penalty areas, other fairways.

#### 2.3 Maximum score

- a. Modified Stableford scoring: If you reach bogey and the ball is not holed, pick up.
- b. Stroke play: Max score is triple bogey.

#### 2.4 All about lateral

There is NEVER a stroke and distance penalty. Balls coming to rest out of bounds, or inside of a yellow penalty area should be played as a red (lateral) penalty area. Lost balls in the general area should be played as a red (lateral) penalty area. Please agree on drop location with your playing competitors before dropping.

## SECTION 3

### Miscellaneous Items

#### 3.1 Disqualification

- a. Men's and Women's Championship Divisions: Will be determined in accordance with USGA policy, except for anything specified in this document or in the **Notice to Competitors**.
- b. Men's and Women's Tournament Divisions: At no time will a player be disqualified for a breach of the rules. The maximum penalty will be a triple bogey for each hole in which the violation occurred.

#### 3.2 Age eligibility

- a. Men's and Women's Championship Divisions: Amateur golfers 18+ years of age. Players who are currently on a college team roster may compete in the Men's and Women's Championship Divisions but are not eligible for awards or points.
- b. All Other Divisions: 18+ years of age. Participants younger than 18 must be accompanied by an adult.

#### 3.3 Tie-breakers and playoffs

- a. Men's and Women's Championship Divisions: 1st place ties will be settled by a sudden death playoff. Ties for 2nd place will be settled by a scorecard playoff as follows:
  - i. Back 9 Score
  - ii. Front 9 Score
  - iii. Hole by hole score starting with 18 and going backward
- b. Men's and Women's Tournament Divisions: Ties for 1st place will be settled by a scorecard playoff as follows:
  - i. Back 9 score
  - ii. Front 9 Score
  - iii. Hole by hole score starting with 18 and going backward

#### 3.4 Tee box assignments

- a. Men's and Women's Championship Divisions: In the Men's and Women's Championship Divisions, all competitors will play the same tees. Men will play the SBS Blue tees at approximately 7,000 yards. Women will play the SBS Red tees at approximately 6,000 yards.
- b. Men's and Women's Tournament Divisions: Competitors will select their preferred tee assignment at the time of registration.
  - i. SBS Blue: 6,800-7,000 yards
  - ii. SBS White: approx. 6,400 yards
  - iii. SBS Red: approx. 6,000 yards
  - iv. USA Flags: approx. 5,600 yards